WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

      1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

      comparing means for comparing image resolution of an input image data and information of a predetermined standard resolution;

      judging means for judging whether the image data includes specific information related to copy protection; and

      controlling means for controlling not to work the judging means on the basis of the result of the comparing means.

      2. An image processing apparatus comprising according to claim 1, wherein the judging process is performed by a software process.

      3. An image processing apparatus comprising according to claim 1, wherein said specific information is comprised a digital watermark.

      4. An image processing apparatus comprising according to claim 1 further comprising, checking means for checking said input image data being a copy-prohibited object based on a result of said judging means in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said image data is output as a processed image data on the basis of said checking result; and

wherein said processed image data is not equal to said input image data.

6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a destination of said output is a storage media or a printer or a network.

7. An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein an output of said image data is stopped on the basis of said checking result.

8. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls not to work the judging means in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

9. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input image data is attached with information and   a judgment of said judging means is not performed in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

10.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said information is a product number of a personal computer or a product number of a scanner which is a part of the image process apparatus or user's ID information.

11.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said attachment of information is performed by digital watermark or by non-visible color information.

12.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said information attached in said input image data in case said input image is not said copy-prohibited object .

13.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein image data of an image resolution less than said predetermined image resolution is used for said judgment of said judging means.

14.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specific information is a color spectrum distribution or an image pattern.

15.   An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judging means is controlled to judge in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard

resolution and is not as large as a second
predetermined standard resolution.

16. An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein said input image data
is input from a scanner or a storage media or a
network.

17. An image processing apparatus
according to claim 16, wherein information for a
specified one of said storage media is attached to
said input image data in case said input image data
is input from the storage medium; and
        wherein information for a specified one of
a network address of a sender of said input image
data and/or a network address of a receiver of said
input image data is attached to said input image
data in case said input image data is input from the
network.

18. An image processing method
comprising:
        image resolution of an input image data
and information of a predetermined standard
resolution;
        judging whether the image data includes
specific information relating to copy protection;
        wherein the image process method control
not to work the judging on the basis of the result
of the comparing.

19. An image processing method comprising according to claim 18, wherein the judging process is performed by a software process.

20. An image processing method comprising according to claim 18, wherein said specific information is comprised of a digital watermark.

21. An image processing method comprising according to claim 18 further comprising, checking said input image data being a copy-prohibited object based on a result of said judging step in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

22. An image processing method according to claim 21, wherein said image data is output as a processed image data on the basis of said checking result;
wherein said processed image data is not equal to said input image data.

23. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein a destination of said output is a storage media or a printer or a network.

24. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein an output of said image data is stopped on the basis of said checking result.

25. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said image processing method controls not to work the judging means in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

26. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said input image data is attached with information and a judgment of said judging is not performed in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

27. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein said information is a product number of a personal computer or a product number of a scanner which is a part of an image process apparatus performing said image processing method or user's ID information.

28. An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said attachment or addition of information is performed by digital watermark or by non-visible color information.

29. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein information attached in said input image data in case said input image is not said copy-prohibited object.

30. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein image data of an image resolution less than said predetermined image resolution is used for said judgment of said judging.

31. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said specific information is a color spectrum distribution or an image pattern.

32. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein a judgment by said judging is controlled to judge in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

33. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said input image data is input from a scanner or a storage media or a network.

34. An image processing method according to claim 31, wherein information for a specified one of said storage media is attached to said input image data in case said input image data is input from the storage media; and

    wherein information for a specified one of a network address of a sender of said input image data and/or a network address of a receiver of said input image data is attached to said input image

data in case said input image data is input from the
network.

35. A computer program product,
comprising a computer readable medium having
computer program codes, for executing image
processing, said product including:
        process procedure codes for comparing
image resolution of an input image data and
information of a predetermined standard resolution;
        judging process procedure codes for
judging the image data includes specific information
relating to copy protection;
        controlling process procedure codes for
controlling not to work the judging on the basis of
the result of the comparing.

36. An image processing apparatus
comprising:
        generating means for generating image
resolution information for input image data;
        first comparing means for comparing said
generated image resolution information with a
predetermined first standard resolution;
        second comparing means for comparing said
generated image resolution information with a
predetermined second standard resolution;
        data adding means for adding data to said
input image data; and

judging means for judging whether said input image data includes specific information or not;

wherein said data adding means and said judging means are controlled to add and to judge, respectively based on outputs of said first and second comparing means.

37. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said first comparing means judges that the input image data has a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is not as large as said predetermined first standard resolution.

38. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said second comparing means judges the image data has a high risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by both said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

39. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said second comparing means judges that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by one of said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

40. An image processing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said second comparing means judges that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by both of said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

41. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said judging means also judges whether a copy-prohibited object image is included in said input image data or not.

42. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said judging means also judges whether a predetermined digital watermark is attached in said image data or not.

43. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36 further comprising output means for outputting a result of said judging means;
        wherein said output means outputs a signal indicating said image data includes said specific information in case said judging means judges said image data inputted said input means includes specific information.

44. An image processing method comprising:

generating step for generating image resolution information for input image data;

first comparing step for comparing said generated image resolution information with a predetermined first standard resolution;

second comparing step for comparing said generated image resolution information with a predetermined second standard resolution;

data adding step for adding data to said input image data; and

judging step for judging whether said input image data includes specific information or not;

wherein said data adding step and said judging step are controlled to add and to judge, respectively based on results of said first and second comparing step.

45. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said first comparing step judges that the input image data has a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is not as large as said predetermined first standard resolution.

46. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said second comparing step judges that the image data has a high risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second

standard resolution and processing by both said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

47. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said second comparing step judges that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by one of said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

48. An image processing method according to claim 47, wherein said second comparing step judges the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and performing by both of said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

49. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said judging step also judges whether a copy-prohibited object image is included in said input image data or not.

50. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said judging step also judges whether a predetermined digital watermark is included in said image data or not.

51. An image processing method according to claim 44 further comprising output step for outputting a result of said judging step;

wherein said output step outputs a signal indicating said image data includes said specific information in case said judging step judges said image data includes specific information.

52. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer program codes, for executing image processing, said product including:

generating procedure codes for generating image resolution information of input image data;

first comparing procedure codes for comparing said generated image resolution information with a predetermined first standard resolution;

second comparing procedure codes for comparing said generated image resolution information with a predetermined second standard resolution;

data adding step procedure codes for adding data to said input image data; and

judging procedure codes for judging whether said input image data includes specific information or not;

wherein said data adding and said judging are controlled to add and to judge, respectively based on a result of said first and second comparing